

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.*

DECEMBER 14, 2008

—1 Thessalonians 5:16

## NEWS OF COMFORT

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!  
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## COLLECTION FOR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

*SHARE IN THE CARE*

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS TODAY.  
YOU MAY DROP YOUR DONATION IN THE COLLECTION  
TODAY OR RETURN IT NEXT WEEKEND.**

*"As our retirement expenses seem unending and ever increasing, reminding myself of the generosity of the people who make this (assistance) possible softens my concern,"* writes the president of a religious community in Dubuque.

Please be generous in your support of **today's appeal** for the Retirement Fund For Religious.

[www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org)

## ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please provide your non-availability dates for the months of January and February by Monday, December 29th. You may email the information to [csaiza@stmatthewlb.org](mailto:csaiza@stmatthewlb.org) or call 562.491.1217 and leave a message.

## MANNA MEALS NEEDS YOUR HELP

This Friday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. we will be making 125 bag lunches in our parish hall for the St. Luke's Shower/Lunch Program. Please lend your helping hand for an hour. For more information please call Claire at 562.597.4030.

## TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

The readings for next Sunday, *4th Sunday of Advent* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

**FIRST READING:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5

**SECOND READING:** Romans 16:25-27

**GOSPEL:** Luke 1:26-38

*Like Mary's life, our lives are full of mystery. What helps me to pray "Let it be done to me as you say?" The angel tells Mary "Do not fear." How can I give my fears over to God?*

## PARISH PROJECTS AND GATHERINGS

### WE NEED FLOWER DONATIONS

Please donate Poinsettia plants for our Christmas decorations. You may bring them to the parish office anytime between December 15 and the 22nd.

### DECEMBER 13/14, 20/21

Comunidad bell ringers are outside the Church after all the Masses collecting donations for families within our parish who are in need. Your donations will help make Christmas special for someone!

### DECEMBER 20/21

Peace and Justice ministry will be once again offer yummy loaves of bread for your Christmas morning breakfast or to give as a hostess gift. They will have banana nut, lemon, the always popular pumpkin and more.

### DECEMBER 22

The Spanish-speaking community will present an all-English Posadas at 7:00 PM. The vigil is held for 9 nights before Christmas. We will travel with Mary and Joseph in their search for a place for Mary to give birth. We will end with a joyous celebration with chocolate, pan dulce, Christmas carols and piñatas. Fun for the whole family, neighbors and kids.



### Vigil Masses

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:30p.m. (ENGLISH)

9:00p.m. (SPANISH)

### Christmas Day

**Thursday, December 25**

10:30a.m. (ENGLISH)

12:30p.m. (SPANISH)

(There will be no 7:00a.m. or 8:30a.m. Masses on Christmas Day)

## END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you need a contribution statement for tax purposes, we ask that you please call the office to request one.

## BLOOD DRIVE ON DECEMBER 28

You may be saving a life!

Before giving blood, you must be in good health, bring valid photo I.D., be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and have no new tattoos within the last 12 months.